

3rd SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

THEME: WHERE ARE YOU DRINKING FROM?

We can go on for several days without food than we can without water. It indicates that in the scale of human needs, water is next to the air that we breathe. 'Water' is the theme that runs through the readings today. The first reading shows us the aggressive behaviour the Israelites displayed while thirsting for water. They were very close to throw stones at Moses. They murmured against him and indirectly against God. In the Gospel reading today, the opposite is the case as Jesus was almost starving. His preference was to offer a life-giving water to the Samaritan woman even as he was very hungry. Like the Israelites, sometimes we are angry with God for not granting what we have been praying or thirsting for. Every human being is thirsting for something. The question is: what are you thirsting for? Will it truly bring satisfaction to your life and soul? Jesus said to the Samaritan woman: *"everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but the one who drinks of the water that I will give will never be thirsty."* Every time we satisfy one bodily need, our body will crave for another. What is it that you are looking for? Maybe, you are searching in the wrong place. Where do you wish to drink from or where have you been drinking from? Is it from the well of bodily needs or from the well of Christ? Our needs as humans are continual as long as we breathe; they are not finished. Unless we drink from the well of Christ-the Rock, we shall continue to be tormented by human longings. Let us like the Samaritan woman say to Jesus: *"Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."*

1st reading: *Exodus 17:3-7*. The Israelites thirsted for water, at God's command to Moses, their need was met.

Responsorial Psalm: O that today you would listen to the voice of the Lord, do not harden your hearts!

2nd reading: *Romans 5:1-2, 5-8*. God showed his love for us by allowing His Son to die for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel: *John 4:5-42*. Jesus engaged in dialogue with the Samaritan woman which resulted in her conversion.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Eucharistic Ministers are directed by the Archdiocese of St. Boniface to sanitize their hands before and after the distribution of Holy Communion at Sunday Masses, as part of the safety measures against the fast spreading coronavirus. Any further directive from the Archdiocese will be communicated to you. This is the only one at the moment.

Thanks and happy celebration.
Fr. Sylvanus.

Masses for the Upcoming Week

Sunday, March 15

9am Mass in Garson

11am Mass in Cook's Creek we join Joseph & Ilona Selyem in praying for the repose of the soul of George Taka's

Tuesday March 17

9am Mass in Garson: Sophie prays for the health of Margaret Lanoo

Wednesday, March 18

9am Mass in Garson

Thursday March 19

Friday March 20

830am Stations of the Cross in Garson

9am Mass in Garson

7PM Stations of the Cross in Cook's Creek

Saturday, March 21

5:00 pm Mass in Oakbank

Sunday, March 22

9:00 am Mass in Garson

11:00 am Mass in Cook's Creek

SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS:

April 5th: Aileen & family are praying for the repose of the soul of Vincent Obirek at St. Michael.

April 11th, Easter Vigil: Children of Edward & Dolores pray for the repose of the souls of Edward & Dolores Sitarz at St. Michael

April 12th: Aileen & family pray for the repose of the soul of Carolyn Obirek at St. Michael.

April 19th: Mass at St. Michael is offered for the repose of the soul of Allan Obirek as requested by Aileen & family.

WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS:

March 25th: Catherine Bylo prays for the repose of the soul of Cindy Einfeld (one year anniversary of death) at Garson.

April 1st: Mass is for the repose of the soul of Roman Bylo as requested by Catherine Bylo at Kin Place Oakbank.

CONFESSION SCHEDULE FOR EASTER

March 30th at St. John Paul II Oakbank, time is 7:30 pm.

Please use special envelopes for Mass Intentions. Please, consult the bulletin or find out from the priest to know which Sunday is free for Mass intention

St. Michael's

Our prayers are with Corinne and Bob Sontag and their family on the loss of Florence Vincent, Mother of Corinne, who passed away last Friday. Funeral service will be at St. Boniface Cathedral, on Friday March 20

Our annual **Seniors' Supper** will be Sunday, April 5th. Invitations are ready and will be handed out over the next couple of Sundays. If you have not received your invitation or have had a special birthday this past year please see Dorene or Michael so we can add your name to the list.

Donations of new door prizes are needed. Please drop off your donation at church on or before **April 3rd**.

Volunteers are needed for prep, serving and clean up. Sign-up sheets will be posted at a later date. We would love to see volunteers from our younger groups (under 65). Our confirmation candidates will be assisting us again this evening as they have the past two years!

Our next **Fellowship Sunday** is today after Mass. It is our bread and homemade soup Sunday. Proceeds to Development and Peace.

Altar Server Schedule

March 15: Riley, Grace and Fiona Kotzer

March 22: Madeline Duval, Evan Matos, Myah Lessard

March 29: Hannah, Noah and Olivia Meadows

Thank-you to our altar servers for their dedication!!

Please don't forget the Springfield Food Bank.

Your donations can be left at the back of the church in the drop off box. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Forty Days – Forty Items

Our Lenten journey has begun. It's not too late to take the challenge! Each day of Lent, remove one item from your closet that you no longer wear or need and put it in a trash bag. At the end of the forty days, bring these items to church for donation to the Centre Flavie – Laurent. You can also do this for small kitchen gadgets.

Our next **Administration Board** meeting is Thursday, March 26 at 7 PM.

Join us At St Michael's on Friday March 13th, 27th, April 3rd at 7 PM for Stations of the Cross followed by refreshments, short films and fellowship. On **Friday March 20th we will have the Stations of the Cross at 6PM** followed by a pizza supper and presentation with a special focus on the youth of our Parish! Everyone is welcome!!

St. John Paul II

A huge thank you goes out to Glen Adams for keeping our steps and ramps clear of snow all winter! It was a relief to know that we didn't have to worry about snow blocking our entrance to evening Mass or any events held at the church. Glen never failed to clear the snow. Thank you, Glen!

We are in need of a volunteer to wash the linens once a month. Please see Larry if you are able to take on this task. It's only once a month and doesn't sound like an onerous task.

Also, with the Easter Triduum coming soon, we are in need of volunteers in the following areas: 2 people to attend the Chrism Mass and obtain the Holy Oils for our church, a reader for the Second reading on Good Friday, a reader for the 7th reading on Holy Saturday. Please see Larry to volunteer for any of these.

Please remember that we need to update our records with your new mailing address, whether it be just a postal code or a complete address change. You can write your name and address on a paper and place it in the collection basket. Thank you all.

St. John Paul II has a membership number with the **Red River Co-op**. If anyone wants to donate their fuel purchases, our number is **500286**.

We extend a warm welcome to all visitors in our church community and invite you to register and join our parish. To register, please complete the form that is available at the back of the church and is also on our website at www.stjohn-paulii.org. Completed forms can be left with a greeter at the door or placed in the offertory basket. We are happy to have you be a part of our church community and to share our spiritual journey together.

The next **Board meeting** is Thursday, May 7th, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Sacred Heart

Get your 50/50 St. Patrick's Day tickets. Minimum prize is \$1000.00. **Draw to be made at our St. Patrick's Day dinner March 15, 2020.** Tickets available from Church Members

St. Michael's CWL

A huge **Thank You** to the volunteers we had for perogy making on Feb 24th and 25th.

The 3 men and all the ladies worked hard and everything went well. And hats off to our biggest "helper". The new mixer worked wonders and we are happy to have it in our kitchen.

A lot of fresh perogies for sale. Still only \$ 5.00 a dozen.

Please join us at our next meeting Sunday March 29th, after Mass

Cooks Creek Heritage Museum www.cchm.ca

"Polski Czat" an informal Polish language group will meet on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 7PM in the St Michael's Church Hall. New members are most welcome! Please contact Liz @ 204-801-0829 for more info

The Mura: beset by buffaloes, plagued by potash



For several years now, the Mura people of Brazil's Amazonas state have sought to assert their claim to their ancestral lands. To their frustration however, it has been much easier for cattle herders and a potash mine to occupy and control those lands than it has been for them to have their rights respected. Development and Peace's partner, the Indigenous Missionary Council (CIMI), helps them advocate for, defend and publicize their cause more effectively.

"On behalf of the Mura in my region, I want to thank Canadians. We are very happy to have your support. It helps us in our struggle to have our rights and our land respected." — Jeremias Oliveira, representative of the Mura community, Brazil

Watch the Mura's testimony at devp.org/campaign/mura.

Share Lent donations March 28 & 29 (Solidarity Sunday) Please make the cheque payable to your parish and write "Development and Peace – Share Lent" in the memo.

Knights of Columbus

Knights of Columbus - Old Time Dance,

Beausejour - Brokenhead River Community Hall - April 19th, 2020 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M., Dance to a live Band "The Mosaics", Cash Bar, Admission \$10 per person. Dinner at 5:00 P.M. Catered by Green Gables \$11.00. Proceeds to Brokenhead Community Hall and Knights of Columbus Local Charities. For tickets call: Ron 204 755 2821 or Stan 204 268 2961.

"Imagine! A Live Band, Dancing and Dinner for \$21.00!"

How to handwash Catholic Style!

 30-45 second wash time



Our Father, Who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy Name.



Thy Kingdom come.
Thy Will be done,
on earth as it is in Heaven.



Give us this day our daily bread.



And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us.



And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us
from evil. Amen.



Hail Mary, Full of Grace,
The Lord is with thee.



Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit
of thy womb, Jesus.



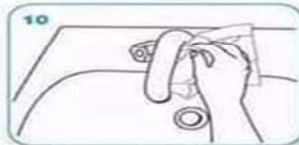
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners



now, and at the hour of
our death. Amen.



Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.



As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.



Amen.

Clean hands are life savers
... and prayers save souls!